

*Jack.* Algy's elder brother! Then I have a brother after a!-, I knew I had a brother! I always said I had a brother! Cecily—how could you have ever doubted that I had brother? [*Seizes hold of Algernon*] Dr. Chasuble, my unfortunate brother. Miss Prism, my unfortunate brother. Gwendolen, my unfortunate brother. Airy, you young scoundrel, you will have to treat me with more respect in the future. You have never behaved to me like a brother in all your life.

*Algernon.* Well, not till to-day, old boy, I admit. I did my best, however, though I was out of practice.

[*Shakes hands.*]

*Gwendolen.* [*To Jack.*] My own! But what own are you?

What is your Christian name, now that you have become some one else?

*Jack.* Good heavens! I ... I had quite forgotten that point.

Your decision on the subject of my name is irrevocable, I suppose?

*Gwendolen.* I never change, except in my affections.

*Cecily.* What a noble nature you have, Gwendolen!

*Jack.* Then the question had better be cleared up at once.

Aunt Augusta, a moment. At the time when Miss Prism

left me in the hand-bag, had I been christened already?

*Lady Bracknell.* Every luxury that money could buy, including

christening, had been lavished on you by your fond and doting parents.

*Jack.* Then I was christened! That is settled. Now, what

name was I given? Let me know the worst.

*Lady Bracknell.* Being the eldest son you were naturally

christened after your father.

*Jack.* [*Irritably.*] Yes, but what was my father's Christian name?

*Lady Bracknell.* [*Meditatively.*] I cannot at the present moment

recall what the General's Christian name was.

But I have no doubt he had one. He was eccentric, I admit. But only

in later years. And that was the result of the Indian climate,,

and marriage, and indigestion, and other things of that kind.

*Jack.* Algy! Can't you recollect what our father's Christian

name was?

*Algernon.* My dear boy, we were never even on speaking terms.

He died before I was a year old.

*Jack.* His name would appear in the Army Lists of the period,

I suppose, Aunt Augusta?

*Lady Bracknell.* The General was essentially a man of peace,